IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 7, 13 and 19, and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The video memory manager as set forth in Claim 1~~A video memory manager for use in a video recording device capable of storing a plurality of video programs on a disk drive, said video memory manager comprising:

5   a video memory controller capable of detecting that said disk drive does not contain sufficient storage space to store a next-to-be-recorded program, wherein said video memory controller, in response to said detection, determines a first retention score associated with a first one of said plurality of video programs and

10   a second retention score associated with a second one of said plurality of video programs, wherein said first and second retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining said first and second video programs respectively, and wherein said video memory controller deletes a least desirable one of said first and

15   second video programs,
wherein said video memory controller replaces said deleted least desirable video program with a program abstract identifying and describing said deleted least desirable video program.

3.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The video memory manager as set forth in Claim 1~~A video memory manager for use in a video recording device capable of storing a plurality of video programs on a disk drive, said video memory manager comprising:

5   a video memory controller capable of detecting that said disk drive does not contain sufficient storage space to store a next-to-be-recorded program, wherein said video memory controller, in response to said detection, determines a first retention score associated with a first one of said plurality of video programs and

10   a second retention score associated with a second one of said plurality of video programs, wherein said first and second retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining said first and second video programs respectively, and wherein said video memory controller deletes a least desirable one of said first and

15   second video programs,
wherein said video memory controller compresses said least desirable video program prior to deleting said least desirable video program.

4.   (Currently Amended)   The video memory manager as ~~set forth~~claimed in Claim ~~1~~3, wherein said video memory controller deletes said compressed least desirable video program if said video memory controller determines that said disk drive still does not

5 contain sufficient storage space to store said next-to-be-recorded

program after compression of said least desirable video program has

occurred.

5. (Currently Amended)   The video memory manager as ~~set forth~~<u>claimed</u> in Claim ~~1~~<u>2,</u> wherein said video memory controller

determines said first and second retention scores according to a

plurality of factors associated with said first and second video

5 programs.

6. (Currently Amended)   The video memory manager as ~~set forth~~<u>claimed</u> in Claim 5<u>,</u> wherein said plurality of factors

comprises at least one of:

        a user-entered rank ordering associated with said first

5 and second video programs;

        relative fairness of deleting said first video if said

first video is associated with a first user of said video recording

device and said second video is associated with a second user of

said video recording device;

10   relative freshness of said first and second video

programs;

        relative durations of said first and second video programs

compared to a duration of said next-to-be-recorded program;

relative similarity of a category of said first video

15   program and a category of said second video program compared to a

category of said next-to-be-recorded program; and

at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated

with said first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a

television series associated with said first video program has been

20   viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a

user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program guide.

7.   (Cancelled).

8.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The video recording device as set forth in Claim 7~~A video recording device comprising:

a disk drive capable of storing a plurality of video

programs;

5   a video recording controller capable of receiving incoming

video programs from an external source and storing said received

incoming video programs on said disk drive; and

a video memory controller capable of detecting that said

disk drive does not contain sufficient storage space to store a

10   next-to-be-recorded program, wherein said video memory controller,

in response to said detection, determines a first retention score

associated with a first one of said plurality of video programs and

a second retention score associated with a second one of said

plurality of video programs, wherein said first and second

15   retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining said first

and second video programs respectively, and wherein said video

memory controller deletes a least desirable one of said first and

second video programs,

wherein said video memory controller replaces said deleted least

20   desirable video program with a program abstract identifying and

describing said deleted least desirable video program.

9.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The video recording device as set forth~~

~~in Claim 7~~A video recording device comprising:

a disk drive capable of storing a plurality of video

programs;

5   a video recording controller capable of receiving incoming

video programs from an external source and storing said received

incoming video programs on said disk drive; and

a video memory controller capable of detecting that said

disk drive does not contain sufficient storage space to store a

10   next-to-be-recorded program, wherein said video memory controller,

in response to said detection, determines a first retention score

associated with a first one of said plurality of video programs and

a second retention score associated with a second one of said

plurality of video programs, wherein said first and second

15   retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining said first

and second video programs respectively, and wherein said video
memory controller deletes a least desirable one of said first and
second video programs,

wherein said video memory controller compresses said least
20   desirable video program prior to deleting said least desirable
video program.

10.   (Currently Amended)   The video recording device as ~~set~~
~~forth~~claimed in Claim ~~7~~9, wherein said video memory controller
deletes said compressed least desirable video program if said video
memory controller determines that said disk drive still does not
5   contain sufficient storage space to store said next-to-be-recorded
program after compression of said least desirable video program has
occurred.

11.   (Currently Amended)   The video recording device as ~~set~~
~~forth~~claimed in Claim ~~7~~8, wherein said video memory controller
determines said first and second retention scores according to a
plurality of factors associated with said first and second video
5   programs.

12.   (Currently Amended)   The video recording device as ~~set~~
~~forth~~claimed in Claim 11, wherein said plurality of factors
comprises at least one of:

a user-entered rank ordering associated with said first

5   and second video programs;

relative fairness of deleting said first video if said

first video is associated with a first user of said video recording

device and said second video is associated with a second user of

said video recording device;

10   relative freshness of said first and second video

programs;

relative durations of said first and second video programs

compared to a duration of said next-to-be-recorded program;

relative similarity of a category of said first video

15   program and a category of said second video program compared to a

category of said next-to-be-recorded program; and

at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated

with said first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a

television series associated with said first video program has been

20   viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a

user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program guide.

13.   (Cancelled).

14.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The method as set forth in Claim 13~~

~~further comprising~~A method of managing a plurality of stored video

programs for use in a video recording device capable of storing a

plurality of video programs on a disk drive, the method comprising

5   the steps of:

         detecting that the disk drive does not contain sufficient

storage space to store a next-to-be-recorded program;

         determining a first retention score associated with a

first one of the plurality of video programs;

10   determining a second retention score associated with a

second one of the plurality of video programs, wherein the first

and second retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining

the first and second video programs respectively; and

         deleting a least desirable one of the first and second

15   video programs,

wherein the method further comprises the step of:

         replacing the deleted least desirable video program with a

program abstract identifying and describing the deleted least

desirable video program.

15.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The method as set forth in Claim 13~~

~~further comprising~~A method of managing a plurality of stored video

programs for use in a video recording device capable of storing a

plurality of video programs on a disk drive, the method comprising

5   the steps of:

         detecting that the disk drive does not contain sufficient

storage space to store a next-to-be-recorded program;

determining a first retention score associated with a

first one of the plurality of video programs;

10   determining a second retention score associated with a

second one of the plurality of video programs, wherein the first

and second retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining

the first and second video programs respectively; and

        deleting a least desirable one of the first and second

15 video programs,

wherein the method further comprises the step of:

        compressing the least desirable video program prior to the

step of deleting the least desirable video program.

16.   (Currently Amended)   The method as ~~set forth~~claimed in Claim

~~13~~ 15, wherein said method further ~~comprising~~ comprises the step

of:

        deleting the compressed least desirable video program in

5 response to a determination that the disk drive still does not

contain sufficient storage space to store the next-to-be-recorded

program after compression of the least desirable video program has

occurred.

17.   (Currently Amended)   The method as ~~set forth~~claimed in Claim

~~13~~ 14, wherein ~~further comprising the sub-steps of determining~~ the

first and second retention scores are determined according to a

plurality of factors associated with the first and second video

5   programs.

18.   (Currently Amended)   The method as ~~set forth~~<u>claimed</u> in Claim

17<u>,</u> wherein the plurality of factors comprises at least one of:

       a user-entered rank ordering associated with the first and

second video programs;

5   relative fairness of deleting the first video if the first

video is associated with a first user of the video recording device

and the second video is associated with a second user of the video

recording device;

       relative freshness of the first and second video programs;

10   relative durations of the first and second video programs

compared to a duration of the next-to-be-recorded program;

       relative similarity of a category of the first video

program and a category of the second video program compared to a

category of the next-to-be-recorded program; and

15   at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated

with the first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a

television series associated with said first video program has been

viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a

user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program guide.

19.   (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended)   ~~The computer-readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 19 further comprising~~A computer-readable storage medium, for use in a video recording device capable of storing a plurality of video programs on a disk drive, containing computer-executable instructions for managing the plurality of stored video programs, the computer-executable instructions comprising the steps of:

detecting that the disk drive does not contain sufficient storage space to store a next-to-be-recorded program;

determining a first retention score associated with a first one of the plurality of video programs;

determining a second retention score associated with a second one of the plurality of video programs, wherein the first and second retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining the first and second video programs respectively; and

deleting a least desirable one of the first and second video programs, wherein the computer-executable instructions further comprise the step of:

replacing the deleted least desirable video program with a program abstract identifying and describing the deleted least desirable video program.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer-readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 19 further comprising~~A computer-readable storage medium, for use in a video recording device capable of storing a plurality of video programs on a disk drive, containing computer-

5 executable instructions for managing the plurality of stored video programs, the computer-executable instructions comprising the steps of:

detecting that the disk drive does not contain sufficient storage space to store a next-to-be-recorded program;

10 determining a first retention score associated with a first one of the plurality of video programs;

determining a second retention score associated with a second one of the plurality of video programs, wherein the first and second retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining

15 the first and second video programs respectively; and

deleting a least desirable one of the first and second video programs,

wherein the computer-executable instructions further comprise the step of:

20 compressing the least desirable video program prior to the step of deleting the least desirable video program.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as ~~set forth~~claimed in Claim ~~19~~ 21, wherein the computer-executable instructions further ~~comprising~~ comprise the step of:

deleting the compressed least desirable video program in
5 response to a determination that the disk drive still does not contain sufficient storage space to store the next-to-be-recorded program after compression of the least desirable video program has occurred.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as ~~set forth~~claimed in Claim ~~19 further comprising the sub-steps of determining~~ 20, wherein the first and second retention scores are determined according to a plurality of factors associated with the
5 first and second video programs.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as ~~set forth~~claimed in Claim 23, wherein the plurality of factors comprises at least one of:

a user-entered rank ordering associated with the first and
5 second video programs;

relative fairness of deleting the first video if the first video is associated with a first user of the video recording device and the second video is associated with a second user of the video recording device;

10   relative freshness of the first and second video programs;

            relative durations of the first and second video programs

compared to a duration of the next-to-be-recorded program;

            relative similarity of a category of the first video

program and a category of the second video program compared to a

15   category of the next-to-be-recorded program; and

            at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated

with the first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a

television series associated with the first video program has been

viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a

20   user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program guide.